Message Text

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R 211447Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7657

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, AU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM FARES

REF: VIENNA 07327

- 1. EMBASSY TO DATE HAS NOT RECEIVED GOA DIPLOMATIC NOTE REJECTING PAN AM BUDGET/STANDBY FARES. GOA, HOWEVER, HAS NOW APPARENTLY LINKED REJECTION WITH PURPORTED VIOLATION BY PAN AM OF FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS.
- 2. VIENNA PAN AM MANAGER HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY LETTER FROM GOA DATED AUG. 10, 1978, PERTINENT SECTIONS OF WHICH FOLLOW: WITH REFERENCE TO THE PASSENGERS CARRIED ON SCHEDULED PAN AM FLIGHTS DURING JUNE AND JULY 78 WITH CHARTER TICKETS THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT STATES THAT NO EMERGENCY RULING HAS BEEN APPROVED BY CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY AND THAT THEREFORE SUCH INCIDENTS REPRESENT VIOLATIONS OF AUSTRIAN LAW. SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR SALE OF TICKETS AT UNAPPROVED LOW FARES, PROOF FOR SUCH TICKETS HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THIS OFFICE. FURTHERMORE, BETWEEN VIENNA AND WARSAW AND V.V., LOCAL PASSENGERS AND CARGO HAVE BEEN CARRIED ALTHOUGH THE EXCERCISING OF FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS HAS BEEN EXPLICITLY PROHIBITED BY NOTIFICATION FROM THIS OFFICE. PAN AM IS REQUESTED TO IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT PROPER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLANATION TO THE VIOLATIONS CITED ABOVE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND UNITED STATES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW GOVERNING BILATERAL AIR TRAFFIC, BGBL. NO. 393/1973, US ADMINISTRATION WILL BE NOTIFIED TO THIS EFFECT. AS TO YOUR TARIFF FILING DATED AUGUST 1/78, WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT SAME WILL BE PROTESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 13(D) OF BILATERAL

AGREEMENT. FURTHER PROCEEDINGS AS TO THIS FILING WILL BE UPHELD UNTIL CLARIFICATION OF MENTIONED VIOLATIONS HAS BEEN REACHED. (FYI: TRANSLATION IS THAT OF PAN AM, AS SENT TO NYC HEADOUARTERS)

- 3. PAN AM MANAGER DRAHORAD EXPLAINED TO EMBOFF THAT REPORTED VIOLATIONS IN JUNE AND JULY REFER TO TRANSPORT OF APPROX. 180 U.S. CITIZENS FROM VIENNA TO NYC AFTER THESE WERE STRANDED IN USSR WHEN PAN AM CHARTER ON WHICH THEY ARRIVED WAS CANCELLED. PAN AM HAD CAB WAIVER TO RETURN PASSENGERS ABOARD REGULARLY-SCHEDULED FLIGHTS OUT OF VIENNA.
- 4. IN REGARD TO ALLEGED SALE OF TICKETS AT QUOTE UNAPPROVED LOW FARES UNQUOTE, DRAHORAD MAINTAINS THAT PAN AM, ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE BEGUN SELLING TICKETS AT THE BUDGET/STANDBY FARES REQUESTED, HAS NOT IN FACT DONE THIS (FYI: THERE WAS, IN ANY CASE, NO EXCESS CAPACITY IN SUMMER MONTHS WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED PAN AM TO DO THIS). ANY SALE OF TICKETS TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS, SAID DRAHORAD, WAS NOT DONE INTENTIONALLY, AND AUSTRIAN AIRLINES MUST SHARE BLAME. SINCE PAN AM HAS NO CHECK-IN COUNTER (IT MAKES SEAT ASSIGNMENTS ONLY) AT AIRPORT, AUSTRIAN AIRLINES ACCEPTS PASSENGERS' COUPONS AND IT MAY BE HALF HOUR BEFORE THESE ARE TURNED OVER TO PAN AM STAFF. AUSTRIAN AIRLINES PERSONNEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCESS PASSENGERS, BUT APPARENTLY ALSO MAKE COPIES OF ANY SUSPICIOUS TICKETS FOR TRANSPORT MINISTRY, COMPLAINED DRAHORAD.

- 5. ALTHOUGH BUDGET/STANDBY FARES, IF APPROVED, WOULD HAVE APPLIED YEAR ROUND (AND NOT ONLY DURING SUMMER MONTHS), DRAHORAD SAYS HE HAS RECEIVED WORD OF PAN AM HEADQUARTERS' DECISION NOT TO FURTHER CONTEST GOA REJECTION OF FARES.
- 6. BEGINNING OCTOBER 15, WITH U.S. DEPARTURE, PAN AM WILL CONVERT TO ONLY THREE FLIGHTS PER WEEK IN EACH DIRECTION: MON., WED. AND FRI. DEPARTING NYC FOR VIENNA AND WED, FRI. AND SUN. VIENNA-NYC. BORG

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Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014

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